



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 3, 2003

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PEORIA WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO THEFT OF PUBLIC MONEY

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on September 2, 2003, Pearlie Mae Coleman, (D.O.B.)11/22/51, of Peoria, Arizona, pled guilty to one count of Theft of Public Money, in federal district court in Phoenix, Arizona.

Ms. Coleman, had been charged with violating Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 641. The charging document alleged that between March 23, 1996 and July 1, 2002, Ms. Coleman stole \$65,903.00 from the United States by falsely representing to the Veterans Administration that she continued to be entitled to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation as the un-remarried widow of a deceased armed services member when in fact she had remarried on March 23, 1996. Her remarriage disqualified her from eligibility to receive the VA money.

A conviction for a violation of Title 18 U.S.C. 641, Theft of Public Money, carries a maximum penalty of 10 years, a \$250,00.00 fine or both.

Sentencing is set before Judge Roslyn O. Silver on November 3, 2003 at 9 a.m.

(MORE)

The investigation in this case was conducted by Special Agents of the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Veteran Affairs.

The prosecution is being handled by Richard I. Mesh, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-924-01-PHX-ROS
RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-157

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